

Correspondence

Description of taxa

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It is very important that taxonomists can understand papers which include descriptions of new taxa. Unfortunately, some descriptions are written in non-Latin based national languages (such as Persian and Chinese etc.) and these are not easy for many taxonomists to translate. I propose that the Commission ratifies English as the common scientific language for description of all new animal taxa. This would greatly improve understanding of these descriptions for zoologists around the world.

Correspondence on this subject, or any other topic related to nomenclature, is invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; it should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).